

## Exhibit 5: RCD's CEQA Notices of Exemption

CEQA Notices of Exemption and Ranch Management Practices

Exhibit 5

Exhibit 5: RCD's CEQA Notices of Exemption

Oct 19 04 11:13a

Goldridge RCD

8234662

notice was posted on ~~MAY 18 2004~~  
will remain posted for a period of thirty

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

6/09/2004 ESTERO AMERICANO RANCH RESTORATION PROJECTS 2004

BEVE T. LEWIS P. 2  
BY *[Signature]*  
DEPUTY CLERK

To: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District  
2020 Barlow Lane  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Name of Lead Agency Approving the Project: Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District (GRRCD)

Name of Applicant, Person, or Agency Carrying Out Project: GRRCD

Applicant Address: 2020 Barlow Lane  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Lead Agency Contact Person: Lisa Hulette, Natural Resource Coordinator, (707) 823-4662

Specific Project Location: Ranch 1: 680 Gericke Road, Petaluma, CA 94952

Project Location -- City and County: Americano Creek watershed, Petaluma, Sonoma County

Description of Project: Project work will include installation of a grade and sediment control structure in a normally dry upland gully draining to an unnamed seasonal tributary to Americano Creek. Approximately 1,500 cubic yards of balanced cut and fill will be used. The embankment will be 18 feet high and 150 feet long; it will create an impoundment of approximately 0.8 acre feet with a surface area of about 0.25 acres. The structure is intended to prevent further downcutting in an actively eroding gully and to trap sediment and bedload transported from elsewhere in the 105-acre watershed. Fencing will be installed along both sides of the gully to exclude livestock from the area. CNDDB review and an on-site biological evaluation did not reveal presence of any special status plant and animal species. Nevertheless, special precautions, including a pre-construction briefing of the crew, will occur to avoid disturbance to any special status species potentially occurring on the site. A site visit was conducted on April 1, 2004, with the local Department of Fish & Game biologist, who confirmed that the project is categorically exempt.

Exempt Status -- Class and Guidelines Section: Class 3 -- Section 15303 (fencing)  
Class 30 -- Section 15330 (minimize release of hazardous substances [sediment])

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: Installation of fencing qualifies as construction of new, small accessory facilities.  
Installation of grade and sediment control structure qualifies as a minor action to prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigation, or eliminate the release or threat of release of hazardous waste or substances because it will provide control for surface water run-on and run-off that meets seismic safety and water quality standards, and it will be approved by the regulatory bodies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish & Game, and Sonoma County PRMD) with jurisdiction over the site.

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Goldridge RCD

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P. 3

Notice of Exemption  
Estero Americano Ranch Restoration Projects

**Specific Project Location:** Ranch 2: 30501/30201 State Highway 1, Petaluma, CA 94952  
Marin

**Project Location - City and County:** Americano Creek watershed, Petaluma, Sonoma County

**Description of Project:** The project involves the construction of an earth fill sediment and grade control structure in a normally dry gully on the property lines between two remote rural ranches. Approximately 4,600 cubic yards of balanced cut and fill will be used. The embankment will be 24 feet high and 100 feet long; it will create an impoundment of about 4.4 acre feet with a surface area of about 0.7 acres. The structure will prevent further downcutting in an 18-foot high, 300-foot long actively eroding gully and will trap sediment and bedload transported from elsewhere in the 35-acre watershed. Fencing will be installed along the gully to exclude livestock from the area. The spillway capacity per Caltrans standards is greater than the 100-year design storm. CNDDB review and an on-site biological evaluation did not reveal presence of any special status plant and animal species. Nevertheless, special precautions, including a pre-construction briefing of the crew, will occur to avoid disturbance to any special status species potentially occurring on the site. A site visit was conducted on April 1, 2004, with the local Department of Fish & Game biologist, who confirmed that the project is categorically exempt.

**Exempt Status - Class and Guidelines Section:** Class 3 - Section 15303 (fencing)  
Class 30 - Section 15330 (minimize release of hazardous substances [sediment])

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** Installation of fencing qualifies as construction of new, small accessory facilities.  
Installation of grade and sediment control structure qualifies as a minor action to prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigation, or eliminate the release or threat of release of hazardous waste or substances because it will provide control for surface water run-on and run-off that meets seismic safety and water quality standards, and it will be approved by the regulatory bodies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish & Game, and Marin County Public Works) with jurisdiction over the site.

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Goldridge RCD

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Notice of Exemption  
Estero Americano Ranch Restoration Projects

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**Specific Project Location:** Ranch 4: 11339 Barnett Valley Road, Valley Ford, CA 94972

**Project Location – City and County:** Americano Creek watershed, Petaluma, Sonoma County

**Description of Project:** The project involves repair of an unstable gully and banks, which will be stabilized from further erosion using rock and biotechnical techniques, including revegetation with native plants. The project area is located on an intermittent tributary to Ebabias Creek, a tributary to Americano Creek and thence to the Estero Americano. On-site biological evaluation did not reveal presence of any special status plant and animal species. Special precautions, including a pre-construction briefing of the crew, will occur to avoid disturbance to any special status species potentially occurring on the site. A site visit was conducted on April 1, 2004, with the local Department of Fish & Game biologist, who confirmed that the project is categorically exempt.

**Exempt Status – Class and Guidelines Section:** Class 30 – Section 15330 (minimize release of hazardous substances [sediment])

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** Stabilization of the eroding tributary qualifies as a minor action to prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigation, or eliminate the release or threat of release of hazardous waste or substances because it will minimize the release of hazardous substances (excessive fine sediment) into the downstream waterway, and it will be approved by the regulatory bodies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish & Game, and Sonoma County PRMD) with jurisdiction over the site.

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**Specific Project Location:** Ranch 5: 14055 Valley Ford Road, Valley Ford CA 94972

**Project Location – City and County:** Americano Creek watershed, Sonoma County

**Description of Project:** The project involves repairing an existing road and installing rocked crossings to minimize erosion and allow for year-round access.

**Exempt Status – Class and Guidelines Section:** Class 1 – Section 15301 (repair)  
Class 4 – Section 15304 (grading)

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** The repair of the existing road constitutes maintenance of an existing structure.  
The installation of the rocked crossing qualifies as a minor alteration in the condition of the land including grading and landscaping.



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Notice of Exemption  
Estero Americano Ranch Restoration Projects

**Specific Project Location:** Ranch 8: 2114 Middle Road, Valley Ford, CA 94972

**Project Location - City and County:** Americano Creek watershed, Petaluma, <sup>Marin</sup> Sonoma County

**Description of Project:** An unstable ephemeral gully and adjacent sink holes will be stabilized using rock and biotechnical erosion control measures to prevent sediment from moving downslope to an existing water and sediment control basin. Fencing will be installed along the gully to exclude livestock from the area. CNDDDB review and an on-site biological evaluation did not reveal presence of any special status plant and animal species. Nevertheless, special precautions, including a pre-construction briefing of the crew, will occur to avoid disturbance to any special status species potentially occurring on the site.

**Exempt Status - Class and Guidelines Section:** Class 3 - Section 15303 (fencing)  
Class 30 - Section 15330 (minimize release of hazardous substances [sediment])

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** Installation of fencing qualifies as construction of new, small accessory facilities. Stabilization of the eroding gully qualifies as a minor action to prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigation, or eliminate the release or threat of release of hazardous waste or substances because it will minimize the release of hazardous substances (excessive fine sediment) downstream of the project site, and it will be approved by the regulatory bodies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish & Game, and Marin County Public Works) with jurisdiction over the site.

Exhibit 5: RCD's CEQA Notices of Exemption

Oct 19 04 11:14a Goldridge RCD 8234662 P. 7  
JUN 2 - 2004  
Notice was posted on  
d will remain posted for a period of 10 days  
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION  
ESTERO AMERICANO RANCH RESTORATION PROJECTS 2004  
EEVE T. LEWIS, Co. Clerk  
G. FARIAS  
DEPUTY CLERK

830  
201754  
To: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District  
2020 Barlow Lane  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Specific Project Location: Ranch 10: 1256 Estero Road, Valley Ford, CA 94972

Project Location - City and County: Americano Creek watershed, Valley Ford, Sonoma County

Description of Project: Work will involve stabilization of two actively eroding gullies using rock and biotechnical erosion control measures to prevent potential sediment transport to Americano Creek and the Estero Americano. Gully A is located in a low-slope bull field pasture swale parallel to Franklin School Road. A  $\pm 200'$  long, rock-armored swale will deliver lateral hillside runoff from the county road culvert to an approximately 650' long, uniformly sloped, rock-lined channel. Fiber-mat-armored vee swales will be installed in parallel drainages on both sides to interrupt sheet flow paths. Fabric-lined vee side swales and fiber rolls will also be installed approximately perpendicular to the 650' channel across the parallel swales. Grading will result in balanced cuts and fills of about 1,000 cubic yards over a 1.5-acre work area. Existing field fencing will remain. Gully B is an area of heavy, active erosion below the county road culvert under Estero Road. A uniformly sloped 440' long, rock-lined channel will be installed, and local willow sprigs will be planted along both sides of the channel. Grading will result in balanced cuts and fills of about 3,000 cubic yards over a 1-acre work area. Existing field fencing will remain, and new stock fencing will be installed on the north side of the gully. Three new stock gates will also be installed in the Gully B project area.

Project construction will occur during the dry season. Temporary silt control barriers, seeding and mulching, and other appropriate measures will be used to minimize risk of soil mobilization and sediment transport to downslope areas. Permanent erosion control measures include the hydraulic structures, rock armor, and permanent cover crop conditions on the embankments and within other disturbed areas. Special precautions, including a pre-construction briefing of the crew, will occur to avoid disturbance to any special status species potentially occurring on the site.

Name of Lead Agency Approving the Project: Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District (GRRCD)

Name of Applicant, Person, or Agency Carrying Out Project: GRRCD

Applicant Address: 2020 Barlow Lane  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Exempt Status - Class and Guidelines Section: Class 3 - Section 15303 (fencing and gates)  
Class 4 - Section 15304 (revegetation)  
Class 30 - Section 15330 (minimize release of hazardous substances [sediment])

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: Class 3—Installation of fencing and new stock gates qualifies as construction of new, small accessory facilities.  
Class 4—Revegetation with erosion control crops qualifies as a minor alteration to the land that does not affect sensitive resources.  
Class 30—Stabilization of eroding gullies qualifies as a minor action to prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate, or eliminate the release or threat of release of hazardous substances [sediment].

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To: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District  
2020 Barlow Lane  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

**Specific Project Location:** Ranch 11: 14280 Valley Ford Road, Valley Ford, CA 94972

**Project Location - City and County:** Americano Creek watershed, Valley Ford, Sonoma County

**Description of Project:** Proposed work involves placement of rock armoring in an upland pasture that is subject to intermittent gully erosion. Total length will be  $\pm 350$  feet in two sections, one  $\pm 230$  feet and the other  $\pm 120$  feet. No grading is proposed. Work will occur in the dry season when runoff is not present. Permanent erosion control measures include the storm drain management system and permanent cover crops on the embankments and within the developed hillside areas. New livestock exclusionary fencing will be installed to protect the stabilized gully. CNDDB review and an on-site biological evaluation did not reveal presence of any special status plant and animal species. Special precautions, including a pre-construction briefing of the crew, will occur to avoid disturbance to any special status species potentially occurring on the site.

**Name of Lead Agency Approving the Project:** Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District (GRRCD)

**Name of Applicant, Person, or Agency Carrying Out Project:** GRRCD

**Applicant Address:** 2020 Barlow Lane  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

**Exempt Status - Class and Guidelines Section:** Class 3 - Section 15303 (fencing)  
Class 4 - Section 15330 (revegetation and minor alteration of land [gully stabilization])

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** Class 3—Installation of fencing qualifies as construction of new, small accessory facilities.  
Class 4—Revegetation with erosion control crops and stabilization of the eroding pasture qualify as a minor alterations to the land that do not affect sensitive resources.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Lisa Hulette, Natural Resource Coordinator (707) 823-4662

**Signature:** 

**Date:** 5/25/04

☒ signed by Lead Agency  
☐ signed by Applicant

**Date received for filing at OPR:**

JUN 2 - 2004